

**PROGRAM POLICY COORDINATION WORKGROUP
MINUTES**

November 13, 2003

GEF III, Room 349

Attendees:

Carol Amelong, DHFS/BIMA
Autumn Arnold, DHFS/Prg. Participation Grant
Shirin Cabraal, LAW
Jonathan Bader, WISCAP
Jeff Brikowski, DHFS/BHCE
Ed Dillon, DHFS/Prg. Participation Grant
Sara Edmonds, DHFS/BHCE
Janet Even, DHFS/Prg. Participation Grant
Jim Hennen, DHFS/SE Region
Jon Janowski, MHTF
Stacia Jankowski, DHFS
Kathy Judd, Dane Co.
Donna King, DHCF/UWO CCDET

John LaPhilliph, BHCE/DHCF
Cheryl McIlquham, DHCF/BHCE
Susan McMurray, AFSCME
Carol Medaris, WCCF
Wendy Metcalf, Marquette Co. DHS
Sue Moline-Larson, LOPP
Mary Moyer, DHFS/BHCE
Michelle Pauser, DHFS
Linda Preyz, DWD/W-2
Scott Riedasch, BHCE/DHCF
Sara Shackleton, Dane County DHS
Sheryl Siegl, Winnebago Co. DHS
Joanne Simpson, DHFS

Program Participation Grant

Cheryl McIlquham

Cheryl introduced the newly hired Program Participation Grant team. Janet Even is the Project Director. Autumn Arnold is the Project Coordinator and will be working on the demonstration projects. Ed Dillon is involved with systems. The project is slightly behind schedule but is catching up. Meetings with Hunger Task Force and WISCAP will be scheduled in the near future. Cheryl gave a presentation on our project at the Food Stamp Directors Conference. We are only 1 of 5 states to receive this grant and received nearly twice as much as the other recipients.

Migrant Cafeterias

Jeff Brikowski

Jeff reported back on the response from FNS regarding the ability for migrant FS recipients to use their EBT card at employer-sponsored cafeterias. This group of customers does not usually have a place to store or prepare their food and rely on these cafeterias for their food. We explored the possibility of these cafeterias being certified to receive food stamps in payment, as some restaurants now do. Unfortunately, the response from FNS indicated that there is a very narrow definition of situations when recipients can use food stamps in this manner and this is not one of those situations. The regional FNS office contacted the national office and they concurred. We will continue to try to find other possibilities of allowing this.

Alien Sponsored Deeming

Jeff Brikowski

Jeff covered the changes that are being made to the FS Handbook on this subject. These changes should go in on the next release. There was discussion on these changes and the responsibilities of the sponsors to meet the financial criteria for support.

Medical Assistance for Released Inmates

John LaPhillip

This proposal is targeting inmates with mental illness who require medications to keep their illness under control. There have been numerous occasions where mentally ill inmates have left the prisons but soon returned because they have been unable to obtain needed medication to maintain control over their behavior. DOC issues only a two-week supply of medication upon release, so it is critical for offenders to obtain Medicaid eligibility within those two weeks so they will have additional medication. A handout was given outlining the highlights of this process for submitting SSI applications and Medicaid applications near the end of the period of incarceration. See the handout for more details.

Annuities Policy Clarification

Scott Riedasch

Scott covered the current policy on how Medicaid considers annuities. Currently, annuities are considered to be available assets during their "accumulation" phase (when the person is paying in), but unavailable assets during their "annuitization" or pay out phase. Recently, the federal government clarified that, if an annuity can be sold, it must be considered to be an available and countable resource in determining eligibility. Under the proposed policy, all annuities would be considered to be available, countable assets in determining Medicaid eligibility, irrespective of whether they are in the accumulation or annuitization phase for all Medicaid subprograms with an asset test. An exception to this would be if the person documents that no one is willing to purchase the annuity. The Department must decide whether the proposed annuities policy would affect either all new applications/reviews processed on or after a certain date or all annuities purchased on or after a certain date. An issue paper will be drafted and given to the Secretary's office in the near future.

Reduced Reporting Phase II Update

Sara Edmonds

Sara updated the group on the progress being made towards Phase II of Reduced Reporting. Sara thanked the group on the feedback requested as to the rollout of this phase. The group agreed that the option to implement over time rather than all at once would be the best. This means that for applications/reviews started in February 2004 but not confirmed until March 2004 would be the first group to receive the new form in June. This will be a smaller group than the months following. These recipients will receive a reminder letter in May indicating that they will be receiving the new form in June and should hold on to any documents they would need, such as pay stubs. She also handed out to the group a very rough draft of the Six-Month Interim Report Form (SMIRF). Some information will be pre-printed on the form but it is still to be determined what information that will be. Sara asked the group to go over the form and make suggestions/comments and also asked for input on the processing of these forms.

Next Meeting - Thursday, December 11, 2003 in GEF III, Rm. 349 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.